

the subject matter presented therein.

Please add new Claims 45-53 to read as follows.

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comprising:

45. (New) A production apparatus for producing a crystal, said apparatus

a crucible divided into a plurality of stages; and

a heater arranged to heat said crucible,

wherein said crucible has formed therein a degassing hole in a side wall portion thereof for discharging an impurity gas produced when refining a material by adding a scavenger thereto, and

wherein a lower portion of a first stage of the plurality of stages is positioned to cover an upper edge of a wall portion of a second stage of the plurality of stages.

46. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein the plurality of stages is used in a sequential manner.

47. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said crucible has formed therein at least two degassing holes in the wall portion thereof.

48. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein the degassing hole has a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

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49. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said crucible has formed therein a connecting hole at a bottom center portion thereof.

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50. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said crucible has a bottom face of a cylindrical shape.

51. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said crucible has an inner diameter of at least 250 mm.

52. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, wherein said crucible has a region for mounting a material.

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53. (New) A production apparatus according to Claim 45, further comprising:
a region for receiving a material, said region formed by superimposing a plurality of crucibles; and
a crucible without a connecting hole as a lowermost stage.

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 11, 2001. Claims 1, 2, 27-34, and 36-44 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. New Claims 45-53 are pending in this application and have

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